

California Car Seat Laws in 2019

In **California law**, a child under eight years old must be properly secured in an appropriate car seat or booster seat in the rear seat of a motor vehicle travelling on a highway. The car seat or booster seat must be properly installed, must be the correct size for the child, and must meet applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Babies and Children Up to Two Years Old

A child under two years old must be properly secured in a rear-facing car seat in the rear seat unless the child weighs at least forty pounds or is at least forty inches tall. The car seat must be the correct size for the child and must meet applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Children Two to Eight Years Old

A child between the ages of two and eight years old must be properly secured in an appropriate car seat in the rear seat until the child is at least 4'9" tall, when the child may be secured in a booster seat with a seat belt.

Children Eight to Sixteen Years Old

A child between the ages of eight and sixteen years old must be properly secured in an appropriate car seat, booster seat, or seatbelt.

Children Over Sixteen Years Old

A child over the age of sixteen must be secured in a safety belt that meets applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Penalties for Violations

You may be fined \$100.00 for a first offense or \$250.00 for a second offense, which may be reduced or waived if you are economically disadvantaged. You may be ordered to provide proof of completion of a program instructing you how to properly install and use car seats and booster seats and proof that your car seat or booster seat meets applicable federal safety standards.

Law Enforcement May Stop Your Vehicle for a Suspected Violation

If a law enforcement officer reasonably suspects a violation and your child is within the age specified by law, you may be stopped and issued notice to appear in court.

Sales of Car Seats or Booster Seats

If you sell a car seat or booster seat that was involved in a motor vehicle accident, you may be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

Exemptions

Your child may be exempt if you can prove that it is impractical for your child to use a car seat or booster seat due to physical unfitness, medical condition, or size and no appropriate special needs car seat or booster seat is available.

Your child may be secured by a safety belt instead of a car seat or booster seat if he or she is transported in an authorized emergency vehicle because of a life-threatening emergency and no car seat or booster seat is available.

Your child may wear a lap safety belt in the rear seat of your vehicle if your vehicle does not have combined lap and shoulder safety belts and if he or she weighs more than forty pounds.

Your child may ride in an appropriate car seat or booster seat in the front seat of your vehicle if: your vehicle has no rear seats; the rear seats are side-facing or rear-facing; a car seat or booster seat cannot be properly installed in the rear seat; all rear seats are occupied by children under eight (8) years of age; or you can prove that your child has a medical condition preventing him or her from riding in the rear seat. Your child may not ride in the front seat with an active front passenger airbag in a rear-facing car seat.

All information obtained from: <https://www.experiencedmommy.com/california-car-seat-laws/>